

documented by Cooper, B. (Overwintering of *Plusia gamma* larvae in Yorkshire. *Entomologist* (1946) 79: 176) who states that single larvae were found on 28.ii and 1.ii.1946 on cabbage leaves which were covered with snow during a period of sharp air frosts and frozen ground. One of these was accidentally killed but the other developed normally in the laboratory and emerged as an adult on 8.v.1946.

This species is an occasional pest of vegetable crops and, as such, its response to possible climatic change, particularly with respect to overwintering survival, should be carefully monitored.— ADRIAN M. and DEBORAH K. RILEY, Dept. Entomology and Nematology, AFRC Inst. Arable Crops Res., Rothamsted Exp. Stn., Harpenden, Herts AL5 2JQ.

### ***Cossonus linearis* F. (Col.: Curculionidae) in Surrey and West Kent**

This weevil, added to our list in 1939 from Norfolk, has since then been found several times in East Anglia — mostly the Suffolk Breck — in decaying poplar trunks. In later years it has been met with occasionally in the south-east also: Deal, E. Kent, one by C. Johnson, and in E. Sussex by R.D. Dumbrell and P.J. Hodge. Two further Watsonian divisions can now be added. Prof J.A. Owen asks me to publish his capture of a specimen on a log of Lombardy poplar in Richmond Park, Surrey, 7.vi.83 — a locality which had earlier produced our other and more widespread (but still very local) species of the genus, *C. parallelepipedus* Hbst. Finally on the night of 11.vi.90 I was much surprised to take an example of *C. linearis* at my m.v. light here — my first encounter with the species. Not very far away in Maryon-Wilson Park, where some of the insects visiting the lamp must certainly originate, are various kinds of poplar including two or three prostrate trunks, barkless, hard, and deep in brambles and nettles. Somewhere there, perhaps, a breeding-site may exist.— A.A. ALLEN, 49 Montcalm Road, Charlton, London SE7 8QG.

### **A “white” Gatekeeper — *Pyronia tithonus* var *albida*, Russell (Lep.: Satyrinae) in Suffolk, August, 1990**

The brown and white butterfly seemed, at first, a startling intruder. It fluttered by like an exotic Helicoidid. But this was Suffolk, on the heathland just south of Walberswick and the thrill for me was to see this Gatekeeper butterfly, *P. tithonus*, var *albida*, Russell — the variant in which the normal orange colour is completely replaced by white.

It was 6th August 1990. There had been a run of hot sunny days but that particular morning we had had rain and I was not expecting to see many butterflies about. However, the rain stopped, the sun came out and we set off for a walk. I left the path to examine a clump of bramble. *P. tithonus* was abundant; also about were *L. megera*, *L. phlaeas*, *P. napi* (and/or *P. rapae*) and a solitary *I. io*. Then the brown and white butterfly came into view. With the courtesy “inbred” in *P. tithonus*, it gave me plenty of time